



Many Good Things Are Happening

The weeks of Autumn are a very visual symbol of transition.

Soul Marks is approaching its 5th birthday in February, and the last few months have been and continue to be a time of reflection and change in the way we are working.

Many of the usual workshops are continuing and we are pleased to announce that our partnership with the Priority Area Churches of the Church of Scotland is to continue for another 3 years. Soul Marks is to continue to support the churches which Carol has worked with over the last 3 years and hopes, with their help, to equip

and resource more PA churches throughout Scotland by leading workshops and creating resources, there by reaching more than one congregation at a time.

Carol has also been writing up in booklet form some of the art and worship liturgies that she has devised and written in the past few years and we hope to produce these for sale in the not too distant future. Watch this space!

Great news is that Carol's home church, St. James, Leith www.stjamesleith.org has this month agreed to employ Soul Marks for 4 days per month for 18 months, to continue to develop and build on the work Carol has been doing there over the last 7 years.

As we are moving towards the Advent season, two of the Art and Prayer workshops we are offering are already full. Carol is working on the next Sick Kids Memorial Service and already wondering about Lent!!

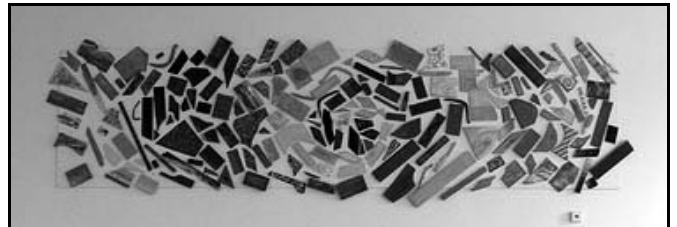
So there are many good things happening and there is much growth. None of this work would be possible without the support of the Soul Marks Friends, so we thank you enormously and ask that you continue to support us in your many individual ways as we reflect back, look forward and seek to grow in a way that will enrich and sustain us all.

A Jigsaw For All People

On March 17th Soul Marks hosted a workshop at our church to help us produce an artwork for our upgraded hall. After coffee, and gentle prompting by Carol, we had a good time discussing what church meant to us, and what we would like it to mean. Phrases cropping up were; 'a place where people belong', 'a warm welcome', 'a jigsaw of people and personalities'.

We decided on a mosaic design; where everyone in church would paint their own section of wood. The following week we invited everyone to bring a piece of wood and paint it as they pleased. It was fantastic to see young and old working

together. The result was a large, colourful pile of timber (which sat in the hall for months, on more than one occasion escaping the bin.)



For the final composition, Carol returned to work alongside artists from our congregation. We went for a spiral theme; a symbol discussed in our first workshop as representative of the journey of life, and the 'drawing in' of all people. It took a few hours to arrange the pieces, another few to glue them to backboards, and a final session for the finest engineering minds in St. Thomas' to work out how to get the boards on the wall (preferably for a few years to come).

From first thoughts over coffee, to a male-bonding session as the guys wrestled the 4x16ft design on to the wall, this was a genuinely positive community experience.

The artistic result is a satisfying and dramatic design; a talking point for anyone who enters our new hall.

Kamala Maniam

Creative Director for St Thomas's, Corstorphine, Edinburgh.



Cranhill Parish Church

Last week 10 of us from Cranhill Parish Church were on Iona. That's almost half the congregation! One of the women spent most of her time in the craft room, not having done anything like that since school days.

'That's great!' said one of the others, 'when we get back, you can be part of our artyparty. We need more arty folk.'

One of the gifts that working with Carol has given us is that sense that we can be creative, and that worship preparation is a group effort – an artyparty – rather than something that only the minister can do.

We always knew that Carol and Melitta would be with us for only a short time, and we really enjoyed the journey. Our Lent and Easter palm trees, etc. created quite a stir, and are carefully stored for reuse.



As Pentecost came closer, half a dozen of us got together around the lectionary readings, and we thought about the coming of the Spirit and gathered a number of images. We went with kites, and during worship on Pentecost Sunday everyone decorated and stuck up a kite in the skyscape above our Easter greenery.

I have really enjoyed seeing people take on responsibility for worship preparation, and a sense of ownership. There's a feeling of expectation, too, that

DIARY UPDATE

2007

- 14-15/09/07 Cole/Slack Wedding Space
- 18-20/09/07 Priority Areas Consultation – 3 Workshops
- 1-5/10/07 Ladybrook Church + Schools Project Mansfield
- 10/11/07 Priority Areas Advent Workshop: Glasgow
- 17/11/07 Priority Areas Advent Workshop: Edinburgh
- 25/11/07 Sick Kids Hospital Memorial Service
- 1/12/07 Leith School of Art Advent Workshop
- 3/12/07 Lochiehead Advent Workshop
- 08/12/07 St. James Advent Workshop
- 10/12/07 Blair House Advent Workshop

2008

- 24/01/08 Art & Spirituality Day
- 26/01/08 Priority Areas Lent Workshop Edinburgh
- 02/02/08 Priority Areas Lent Workshop Glasgow
- 16/02/08 Art & Prayer Day Workshop Leith School of Art
- 01/03/08 Space and Worship Workshop Edinburgh
- 15/03/08 Art and Prayer Workshop. Inverness
- 18/03/08 Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Centre
- 15/04/08 Art & Spirituality Day
- 10/05/08 Ecumenical Priests Group Workshop
- 3-4/05/08 CWW Weekend. Ingliston

the space will change seasonally. Working with Carol has been an empowering experience.

*Muriel Pearson,
Minister of Cranhill Parish C of S, Glasgow.*

Melitta Bosworth worked for Soul Marks alongside Carol at Cranhill. She is now working full time at the Bield Christian Centre, Perth as the new artworker.

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